



## Caribbean Basin Security Initiative:

### Program Overview

**Community Safety and Security:** Building upon past successes with Community Based Policing, USAID focuses on the strengthening of Community Based and Civil Society Organizations, the promotion of community-driven activities, the development of long-term champions of a culture of lawfulness, and the enhancement of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the state to be more community-oriented institutions. In this way USAID contributes to building safer communities, strengthening social cohesion, and improving civic engagement/participation.

**Youth-At-Risk Programs:** USAID works with holistic, youth-friendly approaches that aim to assist at-risk youth in becoming active citizens through the engagement of different social, educational and behavioral, and recreational activities. This approach includes three main areas regarding youth involved in criminality: prevention, intervention and rehabilitation including diversion activities as alternatives to traditional incarceration for first-time offenders. Youth also develop skills through educational programs, which introduce them to fundamental concepts in business, economics, individual accountability, and entrepreneurship.

**Workforce Development:** USAID expects that life-skills and technical training will increase opportunities for at-risk youth to work within the legitimate economy, thereby reducing the likelihood of involvement in gang and criminal activity. In Jamaica, relationships with key public sector, private sector, and donor agency partners are being leveraged to create programs to build skills and identify work options for youth. USAID also works in the youth remandee centers, which includes case management/follow up to facilitate at-risk youth acquiring job and education opportunities when they are released.

**Anti-Corruption:** The National Integrity Action (NIA) 'Combatting Corruption in Jamaica Project' has not only built public demand for more effective action against corruption through awareness campaigns, but has also provided training to government and civil society partners to build capacity and increase advocacy. The project is expected to have an impact on the nation's capacity and ability to effectively control instances of and attitudes toward corruption in general, and political corruption in particular.

**Basic Education:** USAID expects that improved literacy increases economic opportunities for at-risk youth, thereby reducing vulnerability to illicit activities. Working with the Ministry of Education, USAID has identified low-performing schools to ensure children 6 to 9 years of age receive structured reading instruction. USAID facilitates professional development workshops and engages Reading Coaches to assist teachers and principals to improve reading performance. USAID identifies and supports children who are furthest behind in reading development and works with parents on reading skills and engagement with their children. The CBSI component of the project benefits approximately 11,000 students and 200 teachers in regions that experience the highest levels of crime and violence, and are part of the Government of Jamaica's Community Renewal Program.



## Global Climate Change Initiative:

**GCC Adaptation (DA):** USAID through the JA-REEACH program (Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems Adapting to Climate Change) focuses on reducing vulnerability to climate change within the agriculture sector, as well as activities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) in rural communities, ecosystem protection and conservation measures to buffer climate impacts, and training to improve curricula development and research on climate change in higher education. Other climate smart adaptive measures are implemented through the Peace Corps volunteers and their community counterparts. Finally, disaster risk reduction activities in urban communities has been integrated into the COMET II (CBSI) activity; DRR activities act as a catalyst bringing together local police and citizens in vulnerable communities.

**GCC Mitigation (DA):** The EC-LEDS (Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies) focuses on improving the capacity of partner governments to consider low carbon development as part of their strategic planning and implementation of policies. USAID helps build capacity within the GOJ and key private sector and NGO stakeholders to develop and implement a low emission development strategies. The exact form of the assistance has been determined through an extensive collaborative process between the USG and GOJ, which was subject to a formal agreement expected signed in June 2013. In line with Vice President Biden's launch of the Caribbean Energy Security Initiative (CESI), the Mission is currently designing specific activities in clean energy (promoting integration of renewables into the electricity grid, and energy efficiency) with start of implementation expected in Summer 2015.

**Inter-Agency Collaboration:** USAID partners with the State Department, the Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Lab, and the Department of Interior on various climate change mitigation activities under the EC-LEDS program, including support to develop the country's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) for the energy sector under the U.N. Framework Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), evaluation of nation-wide renewable energy net billing program with the utility and regulator, and installation of small-scale renewable energy equipment on public lands.

## The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief:

Currently, there are an estimated 32,000 Jamaicans living with HIV. Some of the important factors driving the HIV epidemic include multiple concurrent partners (including Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), who have sex with women and/or other MSMs), insufficient condom use, gender inequality, and stigma and discrimination. Rates of infection are highest among the 30 to 49 year old age group, having serious financial implications for families and the government in terms of medical costs, lost wages, and missed work. With few development partners working in this sector, U.S. development assistance is vital to complementing activities of the Government of Jamaica (GOJ).

**Support to the National STI/HIV/ Program:** MOH's STI/HIV Program aims to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV by targeting most-at-risk populations, which include Sex Workers (SW) (with a 4.1% prevalence rate), and Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) (with a 32.9% prevalence rate), with prevention information, health services, and referrals link to care and treatment. Through USAID's support to the Ministry of Health (MOH), the National HIV/STI Program is reaching thousands of MSM and Sex Workers (key populations) through empowerment workshops and outreach efforts. The program has created two safe spaces in Kingston for key populations to access HIV counseling and testing and other prevention and care services.

**Caribbean HIV/AIDS Grants, Solicitation, and Management:** implementing partner World Learning (WL) provides technical assistance and grants to NGOs in Jamaica and the Bahamas who are

working with key populations. These grants enable local NGOs to effectively scale up their HIV prevention activities while improving the quality of their programs. World Learning also provides capacity building assistance to the Jamaican Ministry of Health (MOH) and regional NGOs receiving PEPFAR funding. WL Manages 10 sub-grants in Jamaica and four in The Bahamas.

**Health Policy Project (HPP) on Gender Norms, Stigma & Discrimination (S&D), and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Jamaica and the Caribbean Region:** USAID works to strengthen Jamaican national policy and advocacy support for reducing Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Stigma & Discrimination (S&D), and other harmful gender norms through the Futures Group's Health Policy Project (HPP). HPP's work aims to reduce the spread of HIV and increase access to prevention and treatment services by improving the coordination and institutional capacity at the community, regional and national levels for addressing GBV and S&D within HIV programs. HPP is assisting the National HIV/STI Program in the development of the 2013-2018 National Strategic Plan for HIV & AIDS. The project will produce a gaps and barriers analysis of stigma and S&D-related policies. The project develops and disseminates tools, models and global best practices to help increase the inclusion of vulnerable populations in HIV prevention programs. Their work also includes training civil society organizations to strengthen their ability to monitor the implementation of GOJ policies and plans related to gender norms, GBV and S&D in the context of HIV.

## USAID's Education Strategy

**USAID/MOE Education Partnership for Improved Reading Outcomes:** The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) is collaborating with USAID through a Government to Government (G2G) initiative to implement a comprehensive reading activity. The G2G activity supports the GOJ's efforts to improve reading among students in Grades 1 -3 of 450 poor performing primary and All Age schools across Jamaica. The activity targets specific education regions because of risk factors, such as crime, poverty, and unemployment.

The focus of the G2G activity is to enhance the Grades 1-3 teachers' competence in the teaching of phonological awareness, phonics, and vocabulary; and to improve Grades 1-3 students' performance in the fundamentals of reading instruction. The activity also seeks to further equip school principals and education officers in the effective management of literacy instructions in the schools that they supervise; implement gender based instruction; and improve the tracking and monitoring of literacy resources and programs of the MOE. Parents also benefit under this project as they are provided with basic knowledge, skills, and strategies on literacy development so that they can better impact their children's progress in education.

## Development Grants Programs (DGP)

Under the Development Grants Program, USAID/Jamaica is working with local entities to implement programs in the areas of micro-enterprise development, and basic education. Areas covered include:

- Development of micro-enterprises in inner city areas and underserved communities.
- Improvement in literacy skills at the primary school level in an effort to support the Government of Jamaica's national goal of 85% literacy.
- Creation of an enabling business environment for social enterprises.
- Improvement in the preparation for the transition to independent living for children leaving residential care.